



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Sport for development and peace: UN responses to COVID-19

Please complete this template and return to the Division for Inclusive Social Development: melissa.martin@un.org with cc to bas@un.org and pollack@un.org by **April 30th**.

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ACTION

**What action is your entity taking to respond to COVID-19 within the context of its mandate?
Please highlight specific actions that related to sport for development and peace.**

1. Corruption and Crime in Sport

A) UNODC is working to safeguard the support for sport from corruption

While recognizing the need for urgent action to prevent economic and social collapse, the lack of sufficient accountability and oversight mechanisms in the allocation and distribution of economic stimulus packages increases the risk that corruption and fraud will weaken the impact of the measures being taken and result in a shortfall of desperately needed aid reaching the intended beneficiaries, impacting the least powerful among the population. This is true for all affected sectors, including sport.

UNODC has set out general recommendations to address both the immediate situation and for medium term actions to help address related corruption risks associated with supporting sport through or as part of economic stimulus plans.



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UNODC's specialized subject-matter experts provide assistance to States parties in, among other areas:

- The development and implementation of anti-corruption strategies and action plans for sport, including in times of urgency, to rapidly synthesize existing knowledge into concise, targeted guidance;
- Legislative drafting and review on issues related to corruption in sport

B) While sport is on hold, UNODC is helping to stop corruption and crime exploit the crisis

Furthermore, despite the lockdown affecting sport considerably, match-fixers and others eager to exploit sport for illicit gain are using this time to consolidate their networks and further develop them to be able to exploit vulnerable athletes, such as those less well-paid professionals who have seen their earning reduce as a result.

UNODC has continued to make available its assistance to States parties and sports organizations through supporting the implementation of resolutions related to corruption and crime in sport. It has also continued its research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of corruption and crime issues in sport and to assist with policy and operational decisions.

C) UNODC has developed policy documents on the impact of covid-19 in different areas of the Criminal Justice Systems and has developed guidance on effective responses covering various areas of its mandate. Although UNODC hasn't developed specific guidance related to sport for development and peace, certain elements of existing guidance in other areas of its mandate maybe relevant. All UNODC policy guidance related to covid-19 is available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/covid-19-policy-documents.html>.

At operational level, under the UNODC global initiative on youth crime prevention through sport, UNODC field offices has taken several initiatives to promote sports in the context of covid 19 crisis, as a way to support mental and physical health, deal with anxiety and stress and strengthen positive relationships with other family members during the confinement.

- As an example, UNODC in Uzbekistan has launched, in cooperation with Ministry of Sport a "sport challenge" in social media where people are invited to submit short videos and testimonies on how they practice sport and how this have helped them while staying at home due to the quarantine. Link to the "sport challenge" initiative: More information is available at: <https://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/news/line-up--live-up-to-beat-covid-19 -stay-home.html>.



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KEY MESSAGES

What are the main 3 to 5 key messages you wish to highlight about the impact to and contribution of sport for development and peace as it related to COVID-19?

- While sport is on hold, help stop corruption and crime from exploiting the crisis
- Ensure that support for sport is not diverted by corruption
- Sport can be an effective way to deal with anxiety and stress and in promoting physical and mental health and positive family relationships during confinement period.

RESOURCES

Has your entity produced relevant resources on COVID-19 and sport for development and peace? Please attach/provide the links below:

- UNODC tools and resources on COVID-19 will be available at <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/covid-19.html>
- Tools and resources to address corruption specifically in the sport sector are available at <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/safeguardingsport/resources.html>